

Claims

1. A container including a payload volume, a sensor for measuring an environmental condition within the payload volume, and a telecommunications device adapted to transmit data relating to the environmental condition measured by the sensor to a computerised monitoring system via a telecommunications network.
2. A container according to claim 1, including an external temperature sensor for measuring the ambient temperature
3. A container according to claim 1 or 2, including a recorder device that is connected to the sensor and that is arranged to record data regarding the temperature in the payload volume over a period of time.
4. A container according to claim 3, wherein the recording device is arranged to calculate from the recorded temperature the remaining lifetime of products transported in the payload volume.
5. A container according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the telecommunications device is connected to the recorder device and is arranged to transmit data stored in the recorder device to the computerised monitoring system.
6. A container according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the telecommunications device is a cellular telephonic device.
7. A container according to any one of the preceding claims, including a switch device for deactivating the telecommunications device.
8. A container according to claim 7, wherein the switch device includes a detector device for detecting electrical systems that operate within predetermined parameters, the switch device being arranged to deactivate the telecommunications device in response to the detector device detecting an electrical system that operates within the predetermined parameters.
9. A container according to claim 8, wherein the detector device is arranged to detect electrical systems having a frequency of approximately 400Hz.

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10. A container according to any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein the switch device includes a second detector device that is arranged to detect electrical systems having a frequency of approximately 50Hz or 60Hz, arranged to inhibit operation of the switch device when such a system is detected.
11. A container according to any one of claims 7 to 10, wherein the switch device includes a processor device for interpreting the signals received from at least one of the detector device and the second detector device.
12. A container according to any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein the switch device includes an acceleration sensor for detecting at least one of acceleration and deceleration.
13. A container according to any one of claims 7 to 12, wherein the switch device includes a pressure sensor.
14. A container according to any one of the preceding claims, including position locating equipment.
15. A container according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the payload volume is thermally insulated.
16. A container according to any one of the preceding claims, including at least one heat reservoir that, in use, is arranged to cool or heat the contents of the payload volume.
17. A container according to claim 16, including means for controlling the flow of heat to or from the heat reservoir to the payload volume.
18. A switch device suitable for deactivating a telecommunications device when located on-board or in close proximity to an aircraft, including a detector means for detecting the presence of an aircraft, and a processor device for processing signals received from the detector means and arranged to generate a deactivation signal to prevent operation of the telecommunications device in response to an output signal from the detector means.
19. A switch device according to claim 18, wherein the detector means includes a detector device for detecting electrical systems that operate within predetermined parameters.

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20. A switch device according to claim 19, wherein the detector device is arranged to detect electrical systems having a frequency of approximately 400Hz.
21. A switch device according to any one of claims 18 to 20, wherein the detector means includes a second detector device that is arranged to detect electrical systems with a frequency of approximately 50Hz or 60Hz.